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November 25, 2009

John Morton, Assistant Secretary  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Mr. Morton:

I am regarding Rigoberto ("Rigo") Padilla Perez, (A 089-275-910). I ask that you give full and fair consideration to deferring Mr. Padilla's deportation, in keeping with applicable rules and regulations. Please consider working with Mr. Padilla's attorneys to reopen his removal proceedings for the purpose of administrative closure in order that Rigo may remain in the U.S. while he finishes his college education at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Mr. Padilla was placed in expedited removal proceedings on January 22, 2009, when he was released from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody on the Electronic Monitoring Device program. On August 18, 2009, after the denial of numerous requests by community and legal representatives that this removal procedure be deferred, Mr. Padilla was ordered to leave the U.S. voluntarily on or before December 16, 2009.

Mr. Padilla has lived in the U.S. since the first grade, and knows no other country. I understand that he has been a model student, working to pay his own way through college. He has participated in scholarship programs to train him in his dream of becoming a lawyer, paid taxes, and been an active volunteer in his community. Mr. Padilla has a broad range of high school and college professors who have vouched for his character and he has the active support of dozens of organizations and thousands of individuals in Chicago. On November 18 the City Council of Chicago approved a resolution asking for the deferral of the deportation of Mr. Padilla by a vote of 49 – 1. This support, covered extensively by the Chicago press, is as a result of his being an outstanding student and a person of great value to the community.

It is my understanding that Mr. Padilla has only one blemish on his slate, a misdemeanor traffic violation for a non-deportable offence. He has expressed true remorse for this mistake. Given all of the contributions Mr. Padilla has already made and will contribute to his community, I ask that you please give every consideration to deferring his deportation, in keeping with applicable rules and regulations.